Loss suffered by Railways due to Floods

1195. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the loss suffered by Railways due to floods in the country during the period from the 1st January, 1984 and 31st December, 1986 (state-wise) year-wise;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by Railways due to floods in the country specifically during this year (state-wise);

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to overcome this situation and

(d) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) . (a) and (b) The information is being collected from Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Railways to safeguard against the flood damages are detailed in the attached statement.

Statement

Steps taken to safeguard against the flood damages

Amongst the steps taken to prevent flood damage are the following :

(i) All bridges are carefully inspected every year and repairs to sub-structure, flooring, guide-bunds, pitching, etc. carried out as necessary

(ii) Waterways of all bridges are cleared before the monsoons so that there is no obstruction to the flow of water.

(iii) Bridge cells on the Zonal Railways review the adequacy of waterways of important and vulnerable bridges Some of the bridges are widened, raised, re-sited or additional bridges constructed as a result thereof as considered necessary.

(iv) Wherever justified and otherwise feasible, the formation is raised and/or strengthened, pitched with stones. In extreme cases where there is a direct threat of attack by an eroding river channel, railway alignment may even be diverted away from the affected zone.

(v) During monsoons, night patrolling of track is introduced on sections likely to be affected by rains/floods. Stationary watchmen are posted at vulnerable spots and bridges. In addition, in the case of sudden severe storms, the permanent way gang mate, on his own initiative, organises patrolling of track, irrespective of any other Patrolling that may be in force. Permanent Way Inspectors of Railways also undertake intensive patrolling of the track.

(vi) Arrangements are made to stockpile sufficient quantities of track materials, emergency girders, coal ash, ballast, boulders and necessary plant and equipment at suitable sites in advance so that the same can be rushed in an emergency with the least possible delay.

(vii) Arrangements also exist with the various Meteorological centres to obtain from them advance weather warning messages so that the railway officials concerned can be in readiness to face any emergency that may arise in the event of exceptionally heavy rainfall

(viii) Despite all the measures mentioned above, certain amount of flood damages is unavoidable, in case of exceptionally heavy rainfall, or in the event of failure of railway-affecting works, including marginal embankments of major rivers which are constructed and maintained by the State Govts. All the State Govts. have been requested to launch special drive for verification and updating the lists of railway affecting works (tanks, canals etc) and ensure that these are regularly inspected and maintained in safe condition, with arrangements for prewarning the concerned Railway officials in case any emergency is apprehended.

Central grants to States for specific health programme

1196. SHRI S S. AHLUWALIA · Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state .

(a) whether any amount is spent by Central Government for various specific Health Programmes in the country, if so, the details, thereof, and the amount spent during the last 2 years (state-wise and year-wise);

(b) what were the details about the names of States specifying the programme, amount allocated and amount spent by the State and Union Territories;

(c) what were the basis of allocation and reasons for short-fall in expenditure given by the concerned State, if any; and

(d) what is the amount Government propose to allocate for the purpose to Bihar State during the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central assistance is given to the States under the National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National Filaria Eradication Programme, T.B. Control Programme, Blindness Control Programme, Guinea Worm Control Programme etc. Details showing the allocation made to various States/UTs and the amounts released expenditure reported by them under these programmes during the last two years viz. 1985-86 and 1986-87 are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 45].

(c) Allocation of funds is made to States/UTs keeping in view the over all availability of funds and States/UTs susceptibility to various diseases covered under these programmes etc.

(d) This is yet to be finalised

C.G.H.S. Unani dispensary for residential complex of members of Parliament

1197. SHRI S S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a CGHS Unani Dispensary for residential complex of Members of Parliament have been sanctioned a long back;

(b) if so, the date of sanction of this dispensary;

(c) whether this dispensary could not be opened due to non availability of accommodation in the said complex; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to procure accommodation for the purpose and reply of the concerned authorities to C.G.H.S. in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) A Unani Unit has been sanctioned under C.G.H.S. Delhi on 7-6-1985.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The concerned authorities were requested to allot suitable accommodation for housing the Unani Unit. It has however, been intimated that it is not possible to allot any flat in Rajya Sabha Pool in South Avenue for Housing the Unit. However, efforts are being made to procure suitable accommodation for housing the Unani Unit.

Health Field Survey Units in the States

1198 : SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any proposal to establish Health Field Survey Units in certain States;

(b) if so, the number of such units under his Ministry which have been established in the country till the 31st July, 1987 (state-wise and year-wise);

(c) what is the criteria adopted for selection of states for the purpose and who was the competent authority in the matter;

(d) what was the work assigned to such units;

(e) whether Bihar and West Bengal had been overlooked in this regard: and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Field Survey Units at Patna (Bihar), Bangalore (Karnataka), Bhubaneshwar (Orissa) were established during 1981-82 and at Jaipur (Rajasthan), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) were established during 1985-86.

(c) The States which have concentration of SC/ST and tribal population are selected